NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

INFORMATION LETTER

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No. 501 Washington, D. C. April 14, 1934

CODE APPROVED BY DIRECTORS AND STATE ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES

The Code of Fair Competition for the Canning Industry was considered by the Board of Directors of the National Canners Association at a meeting in Chicago on April 11th, to which were also invited representatives of state and regional canners' associations. The Code as presented at this meeting was approved by the directors, and also by the representatives of state canners' associations, by an almost unanimous vote.

The Code as presented included the articles on definitions, wages and hours, as communicated to all canners by the Association on March 31st, with clarifying and coordinating revisions approved at a meeting of the Code Committee and the Administrative Council of the Association on Tuesday preceding the Board meeting; also the articles on organization and powers of the Code Authority and fair trade practices, which in their revised form were presented and discussed at the Board meeting.

The final steps toward the completion of the work on the Code will be taken at an early date. The President of the Association was authorized by the Board to assent formally to the Code with such further revisions as may be required to clarify and coordinate all of its provisions. When this assent is given, the Code will then be presented by the Deputy Administrator who has been in charge of the negotiations to the Administrator for the National Recovery and to the President for approval.

AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT FATAL TO JAMES MOORE

James Moore, President of the National Canners Association in 1922, and for many years associated with New York Canners, Inc., and the Snider Packing Corporation, died at Memorial Hospital, Ithaca, New York, on the evening of April 11th as the result of injuries sustained in an automobile accident on April 5, in which Mrs. Moore also suffered severe injuries. Funeral services were to be held at Oneida, New York, on Saturday, April 14th.

Through his activities with the company with which he was

long associated, his notable service as President of the National Canners Association, and his membership on important committees of the Association, Mr. Moore had gained a wide personal acquaintance with canners all over the United States, by all of whom he was held in high esteem.

INTENDED ACREAGE FOR CANNING SWEET CORN AND SNAP BEANS

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics on April 9 issued reports on the intended acreage of sweet corn and snap beans for canning which show a general tendency to increase acreage in 1934 over 1933. The intended acreage reports do not show the acreage that will actually be planted. Instead, they show the preliminary plans, which, of course, are subject to such change as canners may find necessary or desirable before actual plantings are made.

Intended Acreage for Sweet Corn

Reports from 157 representative corn canners giving the acreage of sweet corn which they intend to contract or plant in 1934 indicate an acreage 34.8 per cent larger than that planted in 1933. The 157 firms reporting intended acreage, contracted or grew about three-fifths of the total acreage of sweet corn estimated for canning in 1933. The tendency to increase acreage in 1934 appears quite general, with 75 per cent of the reports showing increases, 10 per cent decreases, and 15 per cent reporting no change in acreage.

Should the net increases in acreage be carried out in the various States in line with present reports from 157 canners, the planted acreage in 1934 would total 276,110 acres compared with 204,860 acres planted in 1933, 166,550 acres in 1932, 365,090 acres in 1931, and with 410,660 acres in 1930.

Abandonment of planted acreage because of unfavorable weather and growing conditions during the last four years was as follows: 1930, 8.5 per cent; 1931, 2.3 per cent; 1932, 1.0 per cent; and 1933, 4.3 per cent.

Average yields per acre obtained on the harvested acreage during the last five years were as follows: 1929, 1.97 tons; 1930, 1.76 tons; 1931, 2.19 tons; 1932, 2.35 tons; and 1933, 2.0 tons.

A planting of 276,000 acres, under average growing conditions, would probably produce 556,000 tons of corn in the husk. Under adverse growing conditions similar to the drought year of 1930, the same planting would probably produce only 444,000 tons. Should favorable growing conditions similar to those of 1931 and 1932 prevail, however, production would likely reach 626,000 tons. Judging from the past relationship between estimated production and size of the pack, a planting of 276,000 acres might reasonably be expected to produce a minimum pack of 11,000,000 cases of 24 No. 2 cans, and a maximum of 15,500,000 cases. Under average growing conditions, such a planting would result in a pack of 13,500,000 to 14,000,000 cases.

The following table shows, by geographical regions, the acreages which would result if late March intentions to contract and plant acreage in 1934, as expressed by representative canners, are carried out. As these intended acreages may be modified before plantings are actually made, they are not to be considered as estimates of planted acreage for the coming season.

The acreage finally planted in 1934 may be greater or less than present indications, depending upon further adjustments which canners may make in their plans between now and planting time.

State	Planted Acreage 1930	1931	1932	1933	Intended in 1934 As pct. of 1933	Intended in 1934 Acres indicated
	Acres	*Acres*	*Acres*	*Acres*	*Pct.*	*Acres*
Maine	13,440	10,690	8,820	9,100		
New Hampshire	1,110	950	640	700		
Vermont	2,200	1,340	880	870	115.0	29,970
New York	26,200	17,900	11,200	13,600		
Pennsylvania	7,500	5,600	1,800	1,800		
Ohio	38,000	30,600	8,800	10,600		
Indiana	44,280	42,000	22,000	28,700		
Illinois	75,000	71,000	35,000	48,100		
Michigan	12,400	8,430	4,000	3,500	137.3	210,100
Wisconsin	14,500	13,900	2,400	4,500		
Minnesota	54,330	48,700	33,500	34,000		
Iowa	56,000	54,900	6,800	19,000		
Nebraska	8,000	7,720	3,400	4,630		
Delaware	3,700	3,400	2,000	2,000		
Maryland	46,200	40,200	21,000	20,000	142.1	32,300
Tennessee	3,400	3,600	1,400	730		
Other States a	4,400	4,160	2,910	3,030	123.4	3,740
Total all States	410,660	365,090	166,550	204,860	134.8	276,110

a "Other States" include Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming.

Intended Acreage for Snap Beans

According to reports received from 183 canners of snap beans, giving acreages of snap beans which they intend to contract or plant for the 1934 season, a net increase of 20.3 per cent over the 1933 planted acreage is indicated. Of the 183 firms reporting, 54 per cent showed increases in acreage, 31 per cent showed no change, and 15 per cent reported decreases.

Should plantings be made in the several regions in line with the reported intentions of these 183 canners, the 1934 planted acreage would total 51,590 acres compared with 42,890 acres planted in 1933, 31,480 acres in 1932, 58,720 acres in 1931, and with a peak of 80,360 acres in 1930.

Abandonment of planted acreage by reason of unfavorable weather and growing conditions during the last four years was as follows: 1930, 2.0 per cent; 1931, 10.3 per cent; 1932, none; and 1933, 5.0 per cent.

Average yields per acre obtained on the harvested acreage during the last five seasons have ranged from 1.15 tons to 1.49 tons, with a five-year average of 1.33 tons per acre.

Under average growing conditions a planting of 51,590 acres should produce a total of 66,800 tons. Adverse growing conditions similar to those of 1930 would probably result in a production of only 56,900 tons; while the relatively favorable growing conditions such as prevailed in 1929 or 1933 should produce a total of 73,800 tons on the indicated plantings.

Judging from the past relationship between estimated tonnage produced and size of the pack, the minimum production of 56,900 tons would result in a pack of approximately 5,200,000 cases of 24 No. 2 cans; the average-yield production of 66,800 tons would give a pack of 6,100,000 cases; while the above-average production of 73,800 tons would pack out about 6,800,000 cases.

The following table shows, by geographical regions, the planted acreages which would result if late March intentions to contract and plant in 1934, as expressed by representative canners, are carried out. As these intended acreages may be modified before plantings are actually made, they are not to be considered as estimates of planted acreage for the coming season. The acreage finally planted in 1934 may be greater or less than present indications, depending upon further adjustments which canners may make in their plans between now and planting time.

State	Planted Acreage				Intended in 1934	
	1930	1931	1932	1933	As pct. of 1933	Acres indicated
	Acres	*Acres*	*Acres*	*Acres*	*Pct.*	*Acres*
Maine	1,420	1,000	530	590		
New York	11,270	7,400	4,000	6,400	126.7	11,140
Pennsylvania	4,000	3,200	1,900	1,800		
Indiana	4,400	2,400	1,000	*b* 3,800		
Michigan	6,500	6,300	3,000	*b* 3,900	130.7	15,030
Wisconsin	9,500	7,000	3,400	3,800		
Delaware	2,550	2,550	700	900		
Maryland	9,800	8,400	6,000	*b* 8,300	116.4	11,060
South Carolina	1,000	1,000	600	*b* 300		
Tennessee	2,000	1,800	900	*b* 1,550		
Mississippi	4,200	2,000	1,700	1,600	101.3	6,390
Arkansas	4,000	3,400	1,300	*b* 2,700		
Louisiana	3,500	1,000	850	460		
Colorado	2,200	1,200	900	*b* 890		
Utah	1,280	200	250	400		
Washington	940	550	170	200	119.8	2,660
Oregon	880	400	200	400		
California	770	650	240	*b* 330		
Other States *a*	8,950	7,070	2,940	*b* 4,570	116.2	5,310
Total all States	80,360	58,720	31,480	*b* 42,890	120.3	51,590

a "Other States" include Alabama, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

b Revised.

TRUCK CROP PROSPECTS

The following statements briefly review the April 10 releases of the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics on the acreage and production forecasts of certain commercial truck crops in specified groups of States for the 1934 season:

LIMA BEANS.—The acreage of 4,200 acres estimated for the early group of States (Georgia and South Carolina) is 27 per cent greater than the 1933 acreage of 3,300 and 65 per cent greater than the average acreage of 2,540 for the preceding five years, 1928 to 1932. Increases of 20 per cent and 33 per cent over 1933 are reported in Georgia and South Carolina, respectively.

SNAP BEANS.—There is an indicated decrease of 9 per cent below 1933 in the production forecast for three early States (California, Florida, spring, and Texas) or a crop of 2,297,000 bushels expected for this year compared with a production of 2,535,000 bushels in 1933. There is an estimated increase of 15 per cent in the acreage but yields are expected to be lower than those of last spring. A preliminary estimate of acreage for the second early group of States (Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South

Carolina) is 29 per cent above the 1933 acreage, or 18,000 acres reported for this year compared with 13,900 acres last year.

BEETS.—There is a production of 256,000 bushels of beets forecast for the second early group of States (Louisiana, Mississippi and South Carolina) compared with last year's crop of 198,000 bushels, an indicated increase of 29 per cent. Although the estimated acreage is about 2 per cent smaller than the 1933 acreage, the average yield per acre is expected to be much higher than that of one year ago.

CABBAGE.—The forecast of production for the second early group of States (Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia) is 14 per cent above last year's production, or 73,400 tons expected to be produced this year compared with 64,600 tons in 1933. Planted acreages in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia were reduced by freezing weather and the acre yields in these States are expected to be below last year's yields. In Alabama and Mississippi indicated yields are higher than those of one year ago.

CARROTS.—A production 42 per cent larger than that in 1933 is forecast for the second early States (California, Louisiana, and Mississippi) or 5,155,000 bushels indicated for this year compared with 3,637,000 bushels in 1933. Yields are expected to be higher than those of last year.

PEACHES.—The condition of peaches in the 10 southern States on April 1 is reported at 73.7 per cent as compared with 47.2 per cent on April 1, 1933. On April 1, 1932, the condition was 33.4 per cent, while the average April 1 condition for the preceding 8 years is 70.8 per cent. Compared with the wide range in condition between States the past two years, the condition this year is fairly uniform, ranging from 66 per cent in Oklahoma and Texas to 82 per cent in Louisiana. Condition in most of the States of heaviest production ranges from 74 to 79 per cent. Generally, the peach crop in the southern States suffered but little from the unusually cold winter and, while some damage to buds resulted, it is generally felt that there are sufficient buds to result in a fairly good crop provided weather conditions from now to harvest remain favorable. In Georgia the continuous cold weather during February held the crop back but there was little damage to buds. In the area north of the Potomac River and west to Illinois the prospects for the peach crop are reported to range from complete failure to a very light crop in some restricted sections. A freeze on March 24 in the Pacific Northwest is reported to have injured soft fruits. The California fruit situation is yet undetermined. During the autumn, winter, and early spring, it was unusually dry in nearly all of the important deciduous fruit sections of California and there was less than the usual amount of cold weather. These conditions have resulted in fruits coming into bloom earlier than usual. There is still danger of damage from spring frosts, however, and until that period is passed, nothing definite can be said of the prospects for the 1934 crops of deciduous fruits in California.

PEAS.—In the second early States (Alabama, California, Other, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina) the acreage is about the same as in 1933, 49,070 acres, and production is forecast at 3,066,000 bushels. This is a decrease of 24 per cent below last year's crop of 4,054,000 bushels on 49,010 acres.

SPINACH.—The total spring crop of spinach in Maryland for market and for manufacture is forecast at 377,000 bushels, or a one-fifth larger crop than the 314,000 bushels produced last spring. Of the 1933 crop, 206,000 bushels were taken by canners. A spring crop production of 34,000 bushels is expected in Illinois compared with last spring's small crop of of 5,000 bushels.

TOMATO PACK IN 1933

The 1933 pack of canned tomatoes, exclusive of tomato products, amounted to 17,896,332 cases all sizes, equivalent to 11,986,469 cases of 24 No. 3's, according to figures collected from the canning industry by the Foodstuffs Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. This compares with a 1932 pack of 17,400,000 cases all sizes, an estimated figure based on complete reports from eleven states producing 72 per cent of the output and incomplete reports from the remainder.

The inability to obtain promptly pack figures from a considerable number of canners of tomatoes has delayed the publication of these statistics.

The detailed figures by states for 1933 are given below. Attention is called particularly to the fact that the statistics are based on *cases of all sizes*, where comparisons with 1932 are possible. Equivalent No. 3's have been calculated for 1933.

State	1933 Cases—All sizes	1933 Equivalent 24 No. 3's	1932 Cases all sizes
Ozark Territory: (Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma)	2,553,708	1,545,929	[a] 2,482,614
California	1,872,508	1,572,004	[b] 2,192,768
Colorado	176,071	128,320	163,680
Delaware	371,690	266,368	(c)
Florida	112,360	64,733	(c)
Indiana	2,546,050	1,684,749	(c)
Maryland	4,137,142	2,636,342	5,000,952
New Jersey	140,256	110,878	(c)
New York	672,587	485,398	[d] 621,709
Ohio	643,661	426,970	446,061
Pennsylvania	280,555	182,787	(c)
South Carolina	107,688	63,024	(c)
Tennessee and Kentucky	[e] 855,447	[e] 487,605	(c)
Texas	161,895	96,693	(c)
Utah	684,838	555,658	403,222
Virginia	1,503,541	928,086	1,239,333
West Virginia	71,982	48,708	(c)
Wisconsin	80,735	53,685	(c)
All other states	923,548	647,842	(c)
Total	17,896,332	11,986,469	[f] 17,400,000

[a] Compiled by Ozark Packing Corporation.
[b] Compiled by Canners League of California.
[c] Comparable statistics not available.
[d] Compiled by Association of New York State Canners.
[e] Compiled by Tennessee-Kentucky Canners Association.
[f] Estimate based on incomplete returns.

FINAL REPORTS OF FIFTEENTH DECENNIAL CENSUS

Full sets of final bound volumes containing the results of the 15th Decennial Census are now available from the Government Printing Office in Washington, according to the Department of Commerce. These reports cover the census of population, unemployment, agriculture, manufactures and distribution.

FROZEN AND PRESERVED FRUITS IN COLD STORAGE

The following table shows the holdings of fruit in cold storage reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics as of April 1, also a comparison with last year and with a five-year average:

	April 1, 1934	April 1, 1933	Five-year average
Apples:			
Barrels	188,000	337,000	408,000
Boxes	3,704,000	4,462,000	5,376,000
Baskets	2,064,000	3,208,000	2,022,000
Pears:			
Boxes	85,000	236,000	299,000
Baskets	23,000	4,000	13,000
Frozen and preserved fruits (pounds)	46,177,000	58,983,000	57,018,000

GERMAN CANNED FRUIT AND VEGETABLE INDUSTRY TO FUNCTION UNDER CODE

The German fruit and vegetable canning industry is to function under a definite marketing code according to a report of the American vice consul at Hamburg made public by the Commerce Department.

New regulations covering stocks on hand and the preliminary regulations for the 1934 season have just been issued by the Control Board of the Association of German Fruit and Vegetable Exploiting Industries. These precepts strictly control prices, margin of profit, delivery claims, size of containers and quotations for raw products sold to canneries and even prices of seed supplied by packing plants to farmers, and are compulsory, the report states.

ZINC OXIDE USED TO PREVENT INFECTION OF SEEDLINGS

Search for a fungicide that would supplement the usual seed treatment for damping-off to check later infections of the seedlings as they emerge above the ground has led to the discovery of zinc oxide as an efficient soil treatment for greenhouses and cold frames, according to the plant disease specialist at the New York State Experiment Station at Geneva. Seedling vegetables, flowers, shrubs, and trees have been efficiently protected against damping-off in numerous experiments with zinc oxide, and a brief statement on the use of this material has been prepared by the station.

Two phases of damping-off must be dealt with, according to this statement, first the pre-emergence phase which is now fairly well held in check by the use of red copper oxide as a seed treatment, and second the post-emergence phase which calls for the use of a fungicide that can remain in close contact with tender seedlings for long periods without injury. What was

needed was a chemical that could be applied to the surface of the soil as a supplement to seed treatment—a chemical that would galvanize the surface of the soil.

"When speaking of galvanizing, one thinks of zinc," the station's plant disease specialist states. "Luckily, zinc oxide was found to be satisfactory for the purposes in mind. Being totally insoluble in water it is not toxic to plants. It should be applied to the surface of the soil at the rate of one-half ounce per square foot. It can be applied dry with a salt shaker or suspended in water. The object is to get a smooth, white covering over the surface of the soil. Care must be exercised not to break this covering with the hose or by cultivating until danger of damping-off is past."

A high grade zinc oxide that is dry and fluffy with a volume of about 35 fluid ounces per pound is recommended. Grades with less bulk are less easily applied, it is said. A full report on the experimental work with zinc oxide will appear in a Geneva Experiment Station bulletin during the summer.

INCREASE IN FREIGHT LOADINGS FORECAST

Freight car loadings in the second quarter of 1934 will be about 10.7 per cent above actual loadings in the same quarter in 1933, according to estimates just compiled by the thirteen Shippers' Regional Advisory Boards.

On the basis of these estimates, freight car loadings of the 29 principal commodities will be 4,367,725 cars in the second quarter of 1934, compared with 3,945,568 actual loading for the same commodities in the corresponding period last year.

Of the 29 commodities covered in the forecast, it is estimated that 24 will show an increase, among which are canned goods with an estimated gain of 5.4 per cent. Among the five commodities expected to show decreases are citrus fruits and other fresh fruits.

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